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capable of hybridizing with SEQ ID NO:1, under stringent conditions, wherein said GILR protein is capable of inhibiting apoptosis and stimulating lymphocyte activity.

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43(Amended). A GILR protein of claim 42, wherein said GILR protein is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across the cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

44(Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 43.

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47(Amended). A GILR protein of claim 41, wherein said GILR protein is chemically modified by being conjugated or complexed with molecules facilitating or enhancing the transport of said GILR protein across cell membrane and wherein the chemically modified GILR protein has the same or higher biological activity as said GILR protein.

48 (Amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the inhibition of apoptosis in cells or for stimulating lymphocyte activation, comprising, as an active ingredient, the chemically modified GILR protein of claim 47.

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